

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T STATE 213686

FOLLOWING

REPEAT SINGAPORE 3844 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON

SECDEF CINCPAC CINCPACFLT CINCUSNAVEUR DTD 04 SEPT

QUOTE:

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 3844

CINCPAC ALSOFOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, SN, UK

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND POSITION ON U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE FACILITIES

REFS: (A) LONDON 13276; (B) SINGAPORE 3769

1. DURING EVENING AFFAIR SEPTEMBER 2 AT HOME OF NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER ROGER PEREN, PEREN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ME HOW US-UK TALKS WERE GOING ON CONTINUED US ACCESS TO SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE FACILITIES. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD RECENTLY HAD TALKS IN LONDON WITH FCO REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WHILE THESE TALKS WERE WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED PRELIMINARY, UK ATTITUDE HAD BEEN POSITIVE.

2. PEREN EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IT HAD TAKEN US SO LONG TO GET TALKS WITH UK STARTED. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SIN-

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GAPORE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE UPSET AT NOT BEING KEPT UP TO DATE REGARDING OUR APPROACH TO THE BRITISH. I SAW NO REASON

TO WITHHOLD FACT THAT SINGAPOREANS HAD BEEN INFORMED, AND SPOKE BRIEFLY AND NON-SUBSTANTIVELY ABOUT MY MEETING WITH DR. GOH KENG SWEE (REFTEL B). PEREN APPEARED RELIEVED (HE PERSONALLY IS INCLINED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE).

3. PEREN THEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED ITSELF OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER FUTURE DISPOSITION OF AVAL BASE FACILITIES. HIS GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD INFORMED THE OTHERS CONCERNED THAT "IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND THAT ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE REFUELING AND BERTHING FACILITIES ARE BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS DO NOT INVOLVE THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND". (PEREN REMARKED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN EXACT QUOTE OF THE LANGUAGE USED, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH.)

4. FINALLY, PEREN STATED THAT IF US-UK DISCUSSIONS ON NAVAL BASE FACILITIES DID NOT WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY FOR THE US, AN EVENT WHICH HE HOPED WOULD NOT OCCUR, NEW ZEALAND WOULD STILL BE DISPOSED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO WELLINGTON.
HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE
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